

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Held

August 28, 2023

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16th REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 16th Regular Session on August 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althausser, Sue Fox Buroker, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Anda Tudor, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, Safety Service Director Cindy Murray.

Prayer given by Mr. Althausser:

Lord, we come before You, offering our thanks for bringing us together safely. It is sometimes easy to forget that our safe arrival and departure is a gift from You. As we prepare for our meeting, we ask that You would be with us. May our thoughts be led by You and our conversations be inspired by you. Help us put our own agendas aside and seek Your will and outcome for this meeting. Please grant us wisdom in these times of uncertainty and clarity in times of confusion. Lead us to solutions and help strengthen us as a city. AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Happy Birthday sang to Antwillia Davis

MINUTES:

Althausser: Okay, I thought we'd try something new. Thank you, David Beazley, for suggesting that. Yes, I just threw you under the bus.

Beazley: I'm alright with that.

Althausser: Approval of the prior minutes; any additions or corrections to the minutes as they were printed up? Don't see any hands raised, any voices raised. So, they'll stand approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

PETITIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Althausser: Chief Musser, anything you'd like to talk about?

Musser: Nothing at the moment, thank you.

Althausser: Chief Donnelly?

Donnelly: Main thing I have to report today is I was able to give our new hire candidate his paperwork today to start the process of getting his physical and all of his paperwork done to get started. Hopefully if everything works out right we have the tentative start date for him as September 18th. So, that's all I've got tonight.

Beazley: Thank you Chief.

Althausser: Thanks Bruce. Parks & Rec?

Fitzgerald: You'll see, you have a graph of like the last three years; quarry, pool. I was going to bring my laptop and kind of go over the numbers but it's a little small. Just to show you, just on revenue, the increase over the last three years. So, both are doing well. Parks, I think everything is being maintained. As I said before, we're working on a grant with Mark Doll for the quarry to put a replacement piece back that we took out. The Lions Club, the Kenton Lions Club is working on some playground equipment for Pioneer Park. That's pretty much it for Park & Rec is anybody has any questions on that.

Althausser: Just off the top of your head on pool, did we change, what were the price changes from last year to this year?

Fitzgerald: We didn't change them.

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Althaus: We didn't. So, for this year for our topline revenue to be a little bit higher based on the weather we had, that's, I would think...

Fitzgerald: We did good for as many days that we had to close.

Althaus: Right.

Fitzgerald: Concessions was even better than the year before.

Althaus: So, we had, we had more concession offerings this year than last?

Fitzgerald: We don't.

Althaus: And I'm not trying to pick it apart. I'm just, I figured this revenue would be a little lower.

Fitzgerald: Oh no, no and I have individual breakdowns. So did I, I watched it everyday.

Webb: We raised concession prices.

Fitzgerald: By twenty-five cents on candy bars.

Webb: But that was it.

Fitzgerald: Everything stayed the same.

Webb: Not general admission or...

Althaus: Okay.

Fitzgerald: But I have a breakdown.

Althaus: Oh no.

Fitzgerald: Of each individual thing if anybody wants it.

Althaus: Oh okay, you can look at it really, memberships were up and concession stand was up. Admission was right at the same.

Fitzgerald: And the quarry is doing great with camping. We had just tonight, two come through for tent camping so we're still, those numbers from 2023 are as of yesterday. I finished plugging those in. So, we'll still have a little bit come in before...

Davis: When do you close the quarry?

Fitzgerald: At the end of October.

Althaus: Any questions regarding Park & Rec? If there anything that you want to speak on with respect to Economic and Community Development?

Fitzgerald: No, I know John we're working on a closing on the property on Detroit and Ohio Street, as soon as, I know they said maybe September 1st but I've not heard anything else back. Have you?

Schwemer: No, and I mean, this is not, I wish I could run with this but I can't. So, I'm at their mercy with the title company. So, at least the seller seems to be wanting to close on Friday but unless we get figures rolling and a settlement statement, you know, which again, that's where they had it written in that their title company would do that stuff. So, hopefully within, hopefully by next meeting we will have it closed.

Althaus: Okay, thank you Jacqueline. So, Auditor, Brian any thing you want to talk about now? Treasurer. John? Well you kind of did just now. Anything else you want to talk about? So Cindy, there are a couple of reports in there.

Murray: Yup, so the sewer report is in there. No overflows during the month of July. Sewer Plant was without power til about 10:30 the night of the tornado but our backup generator worked just fine. We did have, we're going through our NPDES permit renewal process. Everything looks good. There's a couple findings there, downtown is one of them, I know. They asked us to look at backup generators at some of our lift stations or for the lift stations. So, I'll be working with Mike on that. Columbus Street; so, ODOT gave Bluffton Paving til 9/28 to get that completed. Bluffton Paving is having a hard time finding someone to do the concrete work for the ADA compliant ramps on the sidewalks. So, they have that's been pushed out to 9/28. Scott Avenue has not started, the water line replacement on Scott and North due to acquiring parts needed, and the bid opening for our downtown project is tentatively set for this Thursday the 31st at 2pm.

Althaus: Any questions? Okay then, Lynn Webb, our mayor?

Webb: Nothing.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Althaus: Mr. Beazley, anything with Finance you want to discuss?

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Beazley: I don't think there's anything to add to the notes. Much of it shows up in the legislation to be read.

Althaus: Alright, anything from MOP to report?

Wren: MOP has not met.

Althaus: Anything from Public Utilities to report?

Jones: No.

Althaus: Anything from Streets, Alleys, Sidewalks to report? And finally Legislation, Codes, and Regulations, anything to report? Alright, go on to the next then, does Regional Planning have a report?

Beazley: Has not met since our last session.

Althaus: Robin anything you'd like to add with regard to Parks & Rec from your perspective?

Jones: No, thank you.

Althaus: Grove Cemetery Board?

Davis: Just a meeting change. We are changing to September 20th due to the fair.

Althaus: Tree Commission?

Buroker: They did meet on the 17th and of course they went over damages and things that needed to be done from the storm.

Althaus: BKP met last Monday night. Few final preparations for the fair. Hired a couple, three new individuals. They, Chad's had some pretty good success hiring folks. Other than that, they're second half check from the Auditor came in and it was right on budget. So, that's it for them.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

1ST READING

- **ORDINANCE NO. 23-022, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, AND FOR TRANSFERRING OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 2023, FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: There is a pretty well written explanation. I don't know if David and/or...

Beazley: I don't think there's anything necessary there. The Fire overtime being the key component of that, as far as producing payroll.

Althaus: So that is because of the overtime and that has been designated as being urgent.

Motion by Mr. Beazley and second by Mrs. Davis that the rules requiring legislation of a permanent or general nature to be read on three separate days, be suspended. Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Lawrence and second by Mrs. Buroker to adopt Ordinance No. 23-022.

Althaus: Any discussion?

(Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried)

- **ORDINANCE NO. 23-023, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 1437.10, 1437.12, 1437.13, 1437.14, 1437.20, 1437.22, 1437.24, AND 1437.26 RELATING TO THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF KENTON.**

Althaus: First reading, I guess my question, someone want to talk about the background and where this originated and what has changed?

Schwemer: I can talk and Jacqueline can on it. This is just the downtown review board has been more active recently. Really wanting to look at, we've not changed these in a long time and some of these provisions are just a little outdated so it just clarifies, permit, there were some gray areas. So, it's really just cleaning up. There's not a lot of substantive change. It's just how the permits work. You know, clarification on what types of fencing would not be permitted. So, I would just recommend people to go through it. It really is not a long read if you need to compare it to the code. I could get a redline if somebody wanted that, but all intents and purposes, if not going to effect many applicants. It just created a little more clarification on the process, as well as what's allowed and what's not allowed. So, that's the, it's coming from that board.

Althaus: So I guess up to all of you to do some comparisons with existing so we can see the differences. I didn't, like you said John, so you're saying that the changes are minimal?

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Schwemer: Right.

Althaus: Okay. Any questions on that at this time? Alright, we'll consider that again for a second reading at the next meeting.

- **ORDINANCE NO. 23-024, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023, FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Okay, this also is an item that we're told they'd like to move forward on, and there is also an explanation for that. Any questions for...

Beazley: I would note from finance we had a, well, more than cursory discussion on this particular item and we intended to purchase these items and intended them to be ordered correctly and because of the backlog on vehicles, and packages going from dealerships, to supply places, and back and forth, pieces got dropped. The reality remains; our departments need these outfits fully equipped, and this is what it's going to take for that to happen. Go ahead, Cindy.

Murray: The price on the water truck is the, will be the original price even though the quote said it was \$2,000.00 more, or something like that. It is back on the original '22 price, what we will be charged.

Beazley: Thank you, but yeah just the outfitting that moves from the dealership to the place which adds the utility beds and those sorts of things kind of went by the wayside. We need our crews to be able to do their job. So, that's the recommendation and with that Mr. President...

Motion by Mr. Beazley and seconded by that the rules requiring legislation of a permanent or general nature to be read on three separate days, be suspended. Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Buroker and seconded by Mrs. Wren to adopt Ordinance No. 23-024.

Althaus: Any discussion? (Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.)

2nd READING

- **RESOLUTION NO. 23-017, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2023 HARDIN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS AS REQUIRED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Does anyone have any questions that may have come up in the last two weeks. Okay, if there are no objections, we'll read that for a third time at the next meeting.

3rd READING

- **ORDINANCE NO 23-017, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023, FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: And that's the ambulance. Any comments or questions before we? So, it's third reading, I'd ask for a motion if council so desires.

Motion by Mrs. Davis and second by Mrs. Tudor to adopt Ordinance No. 23-017.

Althaus: Any discussion? (Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.)

- **ORDINANCE NO 23-019, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ROCK SALT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND TO CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND/OR BEST BIDDER.**

Althaus: Then, finally, get Cindy's salt bought.

Murray: I tell you what, you wouldn't believe how many people call and ask us when we're going to have this out for bid.

Althaus: You mean people that sell salt or people that are worried we won't buy it?

Murray: They want to put their bid in.

Althaus: Oh okay, I'd entertain a motion....

Beazley: Anyone worth their salt would.

Althaus: Well, if you're worth your salt let's throw a motion out there.

Motion by Mr. Lawrence and second by Mrs. Wren to adopt Ordinance No. 23-019.

Althaus: Any discussion? (Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.)

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SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Althaus: Any committee meetings that we know of that we can throw out there? Dates? If not...

Murray: The Utilities is the 13th.

Davis: And Leg would be the 20th and streets is the 20th.

Beazley: Let's make Finance the 25th.

Davis: Shouldn't we begin that budget soon?

Beazley: We ought to be thinking about the budget at that point.

Davis: Right.

OTHER MATTERS:

Motion by Mr. Beazley and second by Ms. Jones to go out of Regular Session and enter into Closed Session per ORC Section 121.22(G)(1) Personnel.

Althaus: Any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried. Time 7:21PM)**

Althaus: Alright, thank you. We're going to move into Executive Session and that would be our elected officials and Cindy.

Closed session ended at 8:31pm and Regular session resumed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Althaus: We will start with Sue. David? Antwillia?

Davis: I have to ask to be excused on September 11th. I'll be in Cincinnati for state meetings.

Althaus: Okay, Ray?

Lawrence: No.

Beazley: Is that your vote on excusing her? (Laughter)

Wren: Thank everybody for excusing me the last time. I had a great time I brought back a wonderful magnificent respiratory infection with me. So, not covid or anything but.

Althaus: And Robin anything?

Schwemer: No, thank you.

Althaus: And Chief, either Chief anything either of you want to add?

Donnelly: I guess two things; I just want to thank council for moving on the ambulance. I did receive notification that it was done. We're waiting for the financing to go through and set a delivery date for it. The other thing I wanted to mention is I just want to say thank to Tony Hastings for his 25 years of service to this community. So, we had a nice party for him Saturday night and so I know his experience and stuff if going to be missed down there but I appreciate Kyle Brammell is going to be our new Captain. So, step up to the position. So, Things are changing a little bit down there but always for the better it seems like.

Althaus: Dennis, anything?

Musser: No, nothing thank you.

Althaus: Brian? John?

Schwemer: The only thing I just want to advise council, next month and a half to two months until soccer is done I have games every Monday night between the two. So, what I'm saying is I'm going

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to be rolling in right away. So, if you guys have stuff you need to talk to me before, best to reach out with me before I'm going to try not to miss any but I just, I like to get here at twenty til or so. That's not going to happen. So, just if there's something you need you've got to reach out before so you're not waiting and then I show up right at 7 o'clock.

Beazley: You are where you are supposed to be.

Althausser: Alright, Cindy? Lynn?

Webb: No, thank you.

Althausser: Alright, next regular session is September 11th, 2023. If there are no objections, we're adjourned.

Joel Althausser, President of Council

Emma Nelson, Clerk